CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1598
1 November 1999

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

NOTE VERBALE DATED 28 OCTOBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A STATEMENT MADE BY A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON 14 OCTOBER 1999

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the Conference on Disarmament presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to transmit a statement made by an official spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on 14 October 1999, with a request that it should be distributed as an official document among member States of the Conference and non-member States of the Conference participating in its work.

GE.99-66780 (E)

STATEMENT BY A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

14 October 1999

Heated debates have recently taken place in the United States Senate concerning the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty. This important international instrument is the outcome of many years of effort on the part of many countries, and is of fundamental significance for security and stability in the world and for the strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

We wish to express our disappointment and serious concern at the United States Senate's refusal to ratify this treaty. The United States Administration played a very active role in all stages of its drafting and was the first to sign it. This decision delivered a serious blow to the entire system of agreements in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and particularly to the prospects for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

A very clear trend has been displayed recently in the actions of the United States, which prompts profound concern. In addition to the failure to ratify the CTBT, this includes the adoption of the National Missile Defense Act, new threats of sanctions in the area of export controls, and a series of other measures which have destabilized the foundations of international relations.

We have taken note of President B. Clinton's statement that his Administration will abide by the moratorium on the conduct of nuclear explosions which is currently being observed by all five nuclear Powers. At the same time, as the situation develops, Russia, while maintaining its commitment to the CTBT, considers itself obliged to take the most serious view of the consequences of the Senate's decision regarding the Treaty as far as its own security and stability throughout the world are concerned.